

THREAT: Civil War

And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

Genesis 17:8

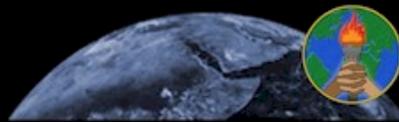
Civil war is defined by what it is not – *not* war between fielded forces of nation states. Because there is often no “army” to be defeated, internecine inconclusive lethality can continue for decades, even centuries. Similarly, **insurgency** is defined as *not* civil war but it is just a matter of degree. Insurgencies can be victorious; the Long March of the Communist forces in China, or the uprising by American merchants against good King George.

The longest running civil war today is said to be the struggle since 1948 by the **Karen** in **Myanmar** (Burma) but the **Philippines** (1960s), **Thailand** (1960s), **Somalia** (1977), **Sri Lanka** (1983) are just some of the other conflicts that extend over decades. But this Guinness book of records approach misses a crucial point. The southern Thailand conflict actually arises in Siamese annexation of an Islamic Sultanate in the 16th century; the **Moro** (“Moor”) insurgency in the southern Philippines originates in the Spanish conquest of 1571. The *Troubles* in **Northern Ireland** date to victory by William over James II at the Boyne in 1690. Deep rifts in the **Balkans** date to when and where the Ottomans were halted in the 15th century.

What may be civil war in all but name may be called an *insurgency* or *terrorism* for rhetorical reasons as with present-day **Iraq**, invented in 1932 when Whitehall sought to unite three Ottoman provinces (*Mosul*, *Baghdad* and *Basra*) into a new impossible entity.

Foreign intervention in civil wars is a gamble and the US had a run of bad luck – backing the **Taliban** in **Afghanistan**, the **Shah** in **Iran**, **Iraq** against **Iran** -- a geopolitical three-in-a-row loss. This points to intrinsic dangers of taking sides in “local” conflicts, or systematic short-sightedness in US foreign policy. Intervention such as this often escalates into a **proxy war**.

As the roots of civil wars and insurgencies are often very deep -- like a village feud in Calabria -- the origins are so distant that which party is clearly “right” or “wrong” is meaningless. The cycle of violence can only be solved with adult supervision and the only legitimate “adult supervision” at present – apart from some land-giving God – is the **United Nations** and **International Courts**.



Near-Term

A jury of the world will find few civil wars or insurgencies to have a *clear good guy* or *bad guy*. Any genuine interest in solving a conflict requires a juristically neutral appreciation of the harms, the claims and the logically possible judgements.

As with civil society, conflict that disrupts the public order -- "world peace" -- can only be effectively resolved in the context of rule-of-law. Nation states unable to solve conflict must -- in the broader interest -- surrender to international **juristic** solutions.

Mid-Term

There is an array of conflict-resolution methods starting from the proposition that most conflicts -- with wisdom and effort -- can be transformed from a **zero-sum game** into rational new arrangements that maximize each side's needs. Failure to understand that arises from the primitive reptilian brain; curable in most cases. The "jury of the world" will readily see what is just in the case of most disputes if the logical alternatives -- often a complex of rights and duties -- is derived from the true origins of the conflict.

Long-Term

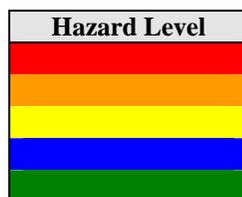
The UN is the worst form of conflict resolution except all the others that have been tried*.

The **veto**-based Security Council ensures that any civil war soon becomes a proxy war, in principle if not in reality -- a race for "our side" to win rather than the conflict be justly resolved. Any use of the UN's palpable powers is thwarted or perverted.

Any effective system for global intervention and solution of civil wars necessarily depends on retirement of the veto power.

**pace Churchill on democracy*

[658 words]



Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
!!! Alert

week-ended

See daily [list of news items](#)

2007 Jul 01

↓ The *Archbishop of Bulawayo* warns that millions are facing death from *famine* and has urged [former colonial power] **UK** to invade **Zimbabwe** to end the suffering. A thumbnail of a strategically located *dispossessed ethnic group* -- [Who are the Kurds?](#)

A **Somali** government soldier has opened fire at a crowd clamoring for *food aid* in **Mogadishu** and killed at least three people.

More than a third of **Iraq's** national *police battalion commanders* are now *Sunni* after a purge of *Shiites* who had a *sectarian* bias.

Those on the ground say **Central African Republic** is on the *brink of collapse* -- "Sitting at the border of **Chad**, **Sudan**, and the **Congos**, the country faces pressure from neighbours, who may at times prefer that the country be weak and unstable".

A quick look at the nature of a few civil wars around the world -- [More Civil Wars, And More Players, Too.](#)

2007 Jun 24

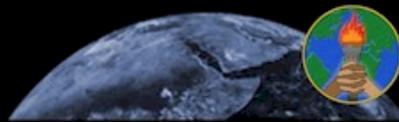
• [Somali authorities impose curfew as killings mount](#) -- "Most of the residents in one of the world's most heavily armed cities now live in constant fear of being blown up in an attack by *insurgents* -- or shot by **Somali** and **Ethiopian** troops...".

A new **Global Peace Index** lists two **African** states, **Sudan** and **Nigeria**, as among the world's least peaceful, but **Tunisia** and **Ghana** are among the world's most peaceful -- [Peaceful countries in Africa - Ghana in top 5.](#)

In **Zimbabwe**, **Mugabe's** own *party* and his *state intelligence* apparatus are said to be now feeling he is a liability -- ['Isolated' Mugabe told to step down - sources.](#)

2007 Jun 17

↓ "The trial of former **Liberian** president and warlord **Charles Taylor** is likely to



hinder efforts to coax **Ugandan** rebels out of their jungle hideouts to peace talks ..." -
- [Ugandan rebels fear fate of Liberia's Taylor](#).

Another in several hundred threats, pledges, or assurances on **Darfur** -- [Sudan's leader pledges efforts for Darfur peace](#). Already eons too late, another inch of glacial progress is made on Sudan's emergency -- [Sudan and U.N. Reach New Peacekeeping Deal for Darfur](#).

The killing of a *Medecins Sans Frontieres* worker confirms the "catastrophic" conditions in rebel-torn **Central African Republic** bordering Sudan's **Darfur**.

A further nine people were killed in a **Somalia** bombing, "*in an increasingly turbulent Iraq-style insurgency*." **Somali** authorities have come to an understanding with three **Islamist broadcasters** who were closed twice in the last six months -- [Somalia drafts media law, broadcasters back on air](#).

Ogaden -- one of the world's other "unknown" wars; "*a separatist war in which impoverished nomads are fighting one of the biggest armies in Africa*" -- [In Ethiopian desert, horrors of a hidden war](#).

In **Zimbabwe**, a visiting team from the *International Commission of Jurists* says "*I was frankly personally shocked that lawyers could be beaten in police stations*".

In the pressure-cooker **Israel** has made of **Palestinian** territories, **Hamas** and **Fatah** fought out a new balance giving dominance to Hamas, the winners of the most recent election -- [Palestinian leader dissolves government amid infighting](#). Israel and the **US** see this a "serious blow"; two distinct Palestinian states, one more moderate than the other, may complicate the issue even more [or may provide some surprising opportunities] -- ['Hamas coup is a serious blow'](#). Despite election results and *de facto* authority, the US will continue to back Fatah, possibly yet another bad US bet -- [US tells Abbas sanctions will be lifted on new gov't](#). [The Shah, Saddam, the Taliban, ...]

"We don't want the **Sri Lankan** government to go to **Pakistan** or **China**. Whatever be their requirements, they should come to us" -- [Former Indian army chief charges India has failed to meet its Sri Lankan obligations while paying lip service](#). "*The abductions have got to cease, the human rights abuses have got to cease... The kind of tactics that were used to clear Tamil people out of Colombo suburbs must never happen again*" -- [Sri Lanka risks isolation over human rights \[Analysis\]](#).

A **Sri Lankan** analyst puts the **Tamil** insurgency in context of other world conflicts -
- [Military Force as an Effective Means of Conflict Resolution](#).

[Serbia says it won't trade Kosovo for EU or NATO](#) -- now all stake-holders have declared their intransigence over **Kosovo** separatism.

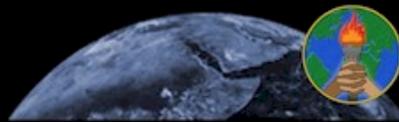
2007 Jun 10

- President **Bush** triumphant, cheerful, well-received, and in **Albania** confirms that it seems there will be nothing short of head-on collision with **Russia** and **Serbia** over **Kosovo** [a largely ethnic *Albanian* principality].

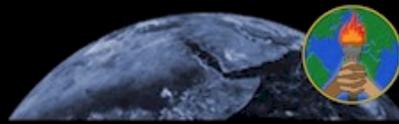
In **Somalia**, three **Mogadishu** private radio stations -- *Radio Shabelle*, *Radio Voice of Holy Quran* and *Horn Afrik Radio* -- were shut down in the interest of public order. [Days later they were allowed to reopen.]

In **Zimbabwe**, "it can no longer be said the **health service** is near collapse" -- it has fully disintegrated. Indicative of tough times, "President Robert **Mugabe's** ruling party has started scouting for **food donations** for its annual end-of-year **conference**". The **exodus** from Zimbabwe is an increasing embarrassment; police arrested almost 2,000 in raids on **border towns** -- "*the operation has seen the arrest of 501 border jumpers, 188 touts, 605 prostitutes, 98 illegal vendors, 151 public drinkers and 393 illegal foreign currency dealers*."

US authorities busted those plotting a **coup** against the **Lao** regime; "*nine ethnic **Hmong** and one retired lieutenant colonel from the **California National Guard** planned to train a militia*" -- [US agents thwart planned Laos coup plot](#).



	<p>Chad rebuffs French idea for Darfur aid corridor -- "Chad does not need this corridor because there is a perfect and full cooperation between the Chadian authorities and the United Nations organisations." Darfur is now 'facing anarchy' as Janjaweed join rebels -- "<i>the result is a complex mishmash of conflicts with Arabs fighting Arabs, tribes dividing and villages taking on their neighbours</i>".</p>
2007 Jun 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Foreign fighters</i> from Britain, Sweden and Pakistan were among those killed by US missiles and Somali army operations in Puntland [northern Somalia]. Zimbabwe's President Mugabe, now finding enemies under every bed, is threatening to seize "hostile" foreign companies -- "<i>One minister said 'imperialist companies' would be targeted as they had been operating with what the president described as a 'sinister, regime-change agenda' ... "</i>
2007 May 27	<p>↓ Zimbabwean police have mounted roadblocks to seize maize on the way to the black market as the country battles for grain supplies. Police arrested 200 opposition activists -- "<i>they had no search warrant. They gave no reasons but they have taken in our members who were holding meetings there.</i>" Authorities say some activists are suspected of a series of petrol bombings in recent weeks -- many observers believe the bombings in question are the work of the security forces.</p> <p>In Somalia, police are about to take over patrols from troops in Mogadishu; there is little practical difference in equipment between the police and soldiers but residents have complained about the conduct of the military. With the halt in fierce fighting, some <u>90,000</u> residents have returned to Mogadishu -- but an Iraqi-style insurgency continues.</p> <p>A UN military officer has been killed by robbers in Darfur [Sudan], the first UN death in the area.</p> <p>Rockets said to be <u>assembled locally</u> in Palestine have a range of <u>14 miles</u>, compared to the Qassam (Kassam) range of <u>4 miles</u>. [The technology may transfer to Iraq and beyond.]</p> <p>The LTTE (Tamil Tigers) of Sri Lanka are a unique insurgency, with police, law courts, army, navy, air force, international intelligence network and "consular" offices in all the Western countries, they are a text-book exemplar of separatism -- How the Tigers beat the Sri Lankan government.</p>
2007 May 20	<p>↓ The worst fighting in Lebanon since the civil war broke out between Lebanese forces and Palestinians in a refugee camp in Tripoli, northern Lebanon; a new group thought backed by Syria may be involved -- Fatah al-Islam an emerging threat for Lebanon.</p> <p>The UN says a humanitarian crisis worse than Darfur is developing in Somalia -- the speed and size of the exodus from Mogadishu has eclipsed the emergency in Darfur. The Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi has escaped a roadside bomb attack, at least the <u>third</u> attempt to kill him.</p> <p>China is sending a special envoy to Sudan at the time a 100 members of the US Congress call on Chinese President Hu Jintao to reassess China's investment in Sudan. The African Union force in Darfur [Sudan] is crippled by funding and equipment shortages and harassment by the Sudanese government and rebels -- AU peacekeeping mission in Darfur faces collapse.</p> <p>The Zimbabwe Opposition Leader has agreed with the move by the Australian government to cancel a cricket tour of Zimbabwe later in the year. [A non-trivial event in the cricket-playing world.] Mugabe's land seizures have guaranteed a famine as wheat harvests produce a fraction of previous years. Some three million Zimbabwean refugees may already be in South Africa illegally and South African President Mbeki warns that many more are certain to follow.</p> <p>Russia and the US (and EU) remain on collision-course over Kosovo -- Rice says</p>



2007 May 13

[impossible for Kosovo to remain part of Serbia.](#)

- The **Yemeni** government believe the *al Houthi* rebels seeking restoration of the **Zaidi Imamate** in **Sanaa**, northern Yemen are supported by **Libya** and **Iran** and has recalled ambassadors from both countries.

A **Somali** uprising in the **Ogaden** region of **Ethiopia** would complicate the *Horn of Africa* beyond even the current situation; "food here costs three times what it does in the rest of Ethiopia. The only thing that comes cheap are **guns**" -- [Ethiopia region faces ethnic Somali uprising](#). *see also: Genocide*

On **Darfur** [**Sudan**], words are stiffer, even **China** pretends concern, but several **aggrieved factions** are not included in hasty photo-opportunity agreements and nothing will happen without Sudan's political will.

An appreciation of the **LTTE** [*Tamil Tigers*] air capability by a former head of intelligence of the *Indian Peace Keeping Force* in **Sri Lanka** -- [Winged terror](#).

Many sources report that **beatings** and **abductions** continue in **Zimbabwe**, but not the authorities -- "There is nobody who is being beaten. Please do not make me angry," says the **state security minister**. A seven-fold increase in the price of Zimbabwe's main staple, **maize**, will not improve the temper of the population. President **Mugabe** denies the 20-hour daily electricity cuts for households across the country are a sign of mismanagement. The **Australian** Government banned its national cricket team's tour of **Zimbabwe** later in the year because the tour would provide an enormous propaganda boost for Robert **Mugabe**.

2007 May 06

- **Aid convoys** have been attacked in north **Yemen**, hampering humanitarian work -- Yemeni government forces have not been able to suppress a rebellion despite recruiting thousands of *tribesmen* in the mountainous areas of **Sa'ada**.

Chadian rebels say agreements between **Chad** and **Sudan** are irrelevant to the **Union of Forces for Democracy and Development** that opposes the Chadian regime. [And civilians remain caught in the middle.]

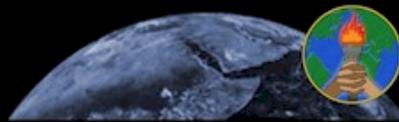
A powerful **Somali** clan has started to **surrender weapons** to the interim government -- "Businessmen from the powerful *Hawiye* clan turned over crates of ammunition, rifles and heavy weapons at a ceremony in **Mogadishu** ..."

In **Sri Lanka**, the **Sea Tigers** looted 14,000 tons of **rice** and all other removable equipment from a Jordanian ship -- "stripped their ship of every thing that could be removed including electric lights". The **Sri Lanka** Navy destroyed **Sea Tiger** boats in the north-east killing twelve **Tamil Tigers** -- "Naval patrol crafts had detected a cluster of 26 Tiger boats consisting of ten large boats, four suicide boats and twelve smaller boats ..." The **Tamil Flying Tigers** have conducted small but psychologically momentous **bombing attacks** -- [Flying Tamil Tigers hold Sri Lanka to ransom](#). [The Tamil's use of Czech-built Zlin Z-143 aircraft is an interesting example of **asymmetry**.]

Feeling the need to grow his base of loyalists, **Zimbabwe** president **Mugabe** has declared the rag-tag mass of unemployed former soldiers of the *1970s independence conflict* to be a **reserve force**.

2007 Apr 29

- ↓ In **Somalia**, **Mogadishu** hospitals were overwhelmed by victims of street fighting -- "even the shade of the trees are occupied at this point". After two weeks, Ethiopian troops said they had taken back Mogadishu -- "we have nearly concluded the fighting in Mogadishu against **al-Qaeda** insurgents and we are now chasing them away". The small contingent of **AU Ugandan peace-keepers** called for the numbers they had been promised -- "for several weeks now, we have not got the troops promised and we are paying for that". In the comparative peace, the interim government appointed two "strongmen" ("warlords") to key positions in the capital; to observers "it remained unclear whether the insurgents had been defeated or melted away to



regroup". *The Guardian* reported that **troops** were robbing refugees -- "*fugitives are forced to pay to shelter in the shade.*" For an arm's length view, see the UN OCHA sitrep; "*there are signs that the insecurity in Mogadishu is having a destabilizing effect on other regions*"-- [Somalia: Situation Report - 27 Apr 2007](#).

Meanwhile in **Ethiopia**, as many as 200 gunmen -- presumed to be with the **Ogaden National Liberation Front** (ONLF) separatist group -- attacked a **Chinese-run** oil field in Ethiopia and killed more than 70.

The **Tamil Tigers** -- the only insurgency with **air power** -- dropped **bombs** near oil storage cutting power to the capital while all **Sri Lanka** was watching the World Cup cricket final.

The **Hitler Youth** model in **Zimbabwe**; "*we were told anyone who did not agree with the policies of Mugabe deserved to die*" -- [The Mugabe Youth – trained for terror](#). A regiment of **Zimbabwe's** army deserted across the border into **South Africa** -- "*this is the breakdown of Mugabe's most trusted sector*".

2007 Apr 22

↓ There are hundreds of dead and corpses rotting in the streets of **Mogadishu** as the battle for **Somalia** escalates -- "*The escalating war has also sent more than 321,000 residents fleeing in the biggest refugee movement in Somalia since the 1991 fall of a dictator ushered in 16 years of anarchy*". "*Unless something is done, the humanitarian crisis is going to turn into a catastrophe very soon,*" says the UN's humanitarian coordinator in Somalia.

Observers say it is **Mugabe's** supporters that have most to lose by regime change -- "*as long as Zimbabwean economic and political policies are driven by pure greed then don't expect any changes.*" The brother of **South African** President **Mbeki** has blasted the "*do-nothing*" strategy on **Zimbabwe**. [Comment: The sub-text is that first generation ruling 'liberation' parties in South Africa and elsewhere now feel threatened by second generation 'civil society' parties.] **African Anglican bishops** have given a message of support for **Mugabe** -- from abject cowardice, or as clever tactics, the bishops note that sanctions are hurting Zimbabwe's poor most.

2007 Apr 15

↓ More than 100,000 have now fled sporadic but deadly **fighting** in the **Somali** capital, **Mogadishu**. Somalia is at risk of becoming '**another Iraq**' -- deputy prime minister Hussein **Aidid** says "*Ethiopian troops must leave from Somali territory to let the Somalis decide their own fate*". **Islamic Courts** leader **Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys** says from hiding there is no difference between **Ethiopian** forces and **Ugandan peacekeepers**.

Last announced at 1,800% in February 2007, **Zimbabwe's inflation rate** will now not be announced until further notice. Zimbabwe urgently needs massive **food imports** following the butchering of its **farm sector**, and has very little **foreign currency**. Zimbabwe's politics goes back to the basics with the government likely to use **food** as an electoral weapon -- "*using food aid to lure the electorate, while cracking down on donor agencies it alleges to be supportive of the opposition.*"

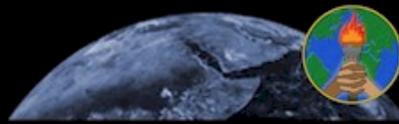
Ivory Coast has passed a law giving **amnesty** to all parties involved in recent bitter conflict -- "*a 'home-grown' peace deal ... may succeed where internationally brokered accords have failed to reunite a country split in two for over four years.*"

The **Sri Lankan** government believes it is in the final phase of a push against **Tamil separatists (LTTE)** -- "*This is the climax. The LTTE are desperate. It's a matter of time.*"

2007 Apr 08

↓ There has been another fierce battle with **Kurdish PKK** south-eastern **Turkey** -- "*Annually fighting generally picks up in the spring as PKK rebels cross the border from the northern Iraqi mountains, where thousands of the fighters are based.*"

Departure of **Ethiopian** troops from **Somalia** has been slowed due to the outbreak of **heavy fighting** in **Mogadishu**.



An interesting defense of **Zimbabwe's** sovereignty *per se*, but daring with ridiculous effect to mention **Kwame Nkrumah** in the same article as the inept and criminal **Mugabe** regime -- [West's Campaign Against Country Doomed](#). With deft sense of diplomacy, **Mugabe** threatened that a critical **British** diplomat may go home in a *body-bag*. Far too late [hoping as ever to stay with the winners] Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic *bishops* now find courage to call on Mugabe to leave office or face "*open revolt*".

Kosovo is continuing as an impasse along *Cold War* lines.

Darfur – which once perhaps a *brigade* could fix would now take several divisions or more – conflict and resulting instability has now spilled over into neighboring **Chad** and **Central African Republic**. [Knock-on effects have spread also to nations such as **Cameroon**.] A rebel *ambush* in Darfur has killed five **African Union peacekeepers** -- "*the force also has trouble protecting itself, much less the more than two million displaced people living in camps and hiding in the bush in Darfur.*" Not only *settlers*, but also those whose life is to roam great distances – the **Arab nomads** - is being destroyed by *Darfur's* conflict.

2007 Apr 01

↓ In **Zimbabwe**, activists in *hospital* with injuries inflicted by state agencies have been abducted and rearrested -- some were on intravenous drips when they were taken away by *state security*. The powerful **Congress of South African Trade Unions** (COSATU) is planning sympathy actions to coincide with a planned strike by the **Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions**. *International Crisis Group* has suggested "an inclusive transition process" in Zimbabwe -- [Crisis Group Board Calls for New Zimbabwe Compact](#). The US (and others) were critical of the **South African** response to the **Zimbabwe** crisis. [**South Africa** and others have a decades old *revolutionary loyalty* to Mugabe, and fear a flow-on of any victory by Zimbabwe's *union-led leftist* opposition.] It has not been clear who is responsible a series of *petrol bombings* in recent weeks but Zimbabwe's Opposition says *State Security* is to blame.

Mosul [**Iraq**] is getting only 4% of its *gasoline* needs; *water* and *sewerage* plants are intermittent. 800,000 **Iraqis** have been *displaced* in the last year by fighting bringing total displaced persons to around 2 million; a further 2 million have fled Iraq. **Plainclothes Iraqi Shi'ite police** slaughtered over 50 **Sunni** in *Tal Afar* after one of the largest vehicles bombs ever used in Iraq killed 85 **Shi'ites**.

Most **Ethiopian** troops have now left **Somalia** -- "*our mission was to destroy the fundamentalist threat posed on us and we have succeeded in achieving this.*" But the "worst fighting in 15 years" has hit **Mogadishu**; Ethiopia said its military had killed more than 200 "armed remnants" of a hard line Islamist movement; "*the whole city is being shelled indiscriminately.*"

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud **Olmert** has discarded the **Palestinian** "*Right of Return*" -- "*Israel would not allow a single Palestinian refugee to return to what is now Israel and that Israel bore no responsibility for the refugees*".

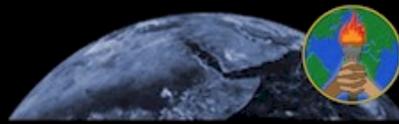
The **US Treasury** has named seven companies and three individuals who have supplied *arms* or supported *militias* in the **Congo**.

In **Sri Lanka**, **Tamil Tigers** in two *light aircraft* have dropped bombs on the main government airbase. Behind a *press blackout* are reports that 40% of Sri Lanka's air capability has been destroyed by the barnstorming attack.

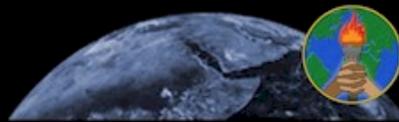
2007 Mar 26

↓ In **DR Congo**, at least 150 killed have been killed in a renewed round of fighting in Kinshasa between government forces and those of defeated presidential candidate Jean-Pierre **Bemba**.

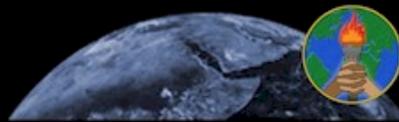
In **Somalia**, an *Ilyushin-76*, one of the largest cargo planes in the world, has been shot down on take-off from **Mogadishu**, killing eleven **Belarusian** nationals.



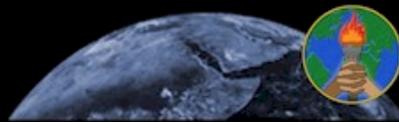
	<p>Recalling the days of <i>Black Hawk Down</i>, angry Mogadishu residents burnt the bodies of government (or Ethiopian) soldiers and reportedly dragged them through the streets. Rebel mortars hit Mogadishu's port as Ugandan African Union tanks arrived. The Somali government says al Qaeda has named Aden Hashi Ayro as leader of the al Qaeda franchise in Mogadishu.</p> <p>In Sudan there are reports of some of the pro-government Janjaweed defecting to the rebels -- "<i>The Janjaweed are realizing the only solution to Darfur's problems is to resist the government.</i>" The UN warns that aid infrastructure in Darfur is on the verge of collapse [Some four million people in Darfur have been caught in fighting between rebels, the government and the pro-government janjaweed militia.]</p> <p>In Nepal, Maoist displayed the bodies of 25 slain activists in open trucks to protest their killing in Nepal's dangerous south.</p> <p>With US support, Colombia seems likely to agree to exchange 61 high-profile hostages held in secret jungle camps for an unspecified number of FARC guerrillas in government prisons.</p>
2007 Mar 19	<p>↓ The Sri Lankan Navy destroyed two suspected Tamil Rebel arms ships -- arms shipments by sea are vital to the Tamil separatists</p> <p>Yemen says 7 troops and 25 rebels were killed in another clash with Shi'ite rebels -- at least 275 rebels and 124 soldiers have been killed in similar clashes this year.</p> <p>The Somali government makes an important symbolic move back to Mogadishu in the face of sporadic mortar and other attacks. The police commander of Somalia's third largest city, Kismayo, was killed by his bodyguard who then escaped with other armed men. According to UNOCHA 40,000 fled the capital during February, the latest phase in a conflict that has lasted 16 years and displaced millions.</p> <p>The Zimbabwean Opposition leader was "in bad shape" from head injuries after being bashed in police custody. After years of deafening silence, South Africa issued a diplomatic, yet landmark, caution to Zimbabwe. President Mugabe said the West and any critic can "<i>go and hang</i>". Days later, in even more brutal bashing of Opposition officials about to leave the country, the Zimbabwean government showed it is doing its best to provoke serious confrontation ... a final solution perhaps. [Regime change, anyone?]</p> <p>Rwandan fighters are said to be filtering into the Congo to wreak revenge on perpetrators of the genocide -- this involvement by Rwandan irregulars puts Congo's least stable region once more "<i>on the verge of total war</i>".</p>
2007 Mar 12	<p>↓ A year of negotiations over the status of Kosovo has ended in deadlock -- "<i>there was no will on the part of Serbian and Kosovo ethnic Albanian leaders to agree on a solution.</i>" [Russia and the EU are similarly deadlocked on the issue.]</p> <p>In Sri Lanka, over 42,000 civilians have fled fighting in last few days, moving to government-controlled areas.</p> <p>Sudan seems about to scuttling a deal on UN troop deployment -- Sudan insists on an AU-command for peacekeeping as agreed in May 2006, not UN-AU joint command agreed in November 2006.</p> <p>In Zimbabwe there was rumor of gun-fire at the State House and "<i>general confusion among members of the presidential guard</i>". Zimbabwean police have arrested members of the Opposition and at least one protestor has been killed in an opposition street protest.</p> <p>Yemen says 160 rebels have been killed in the last two weeks -- around 250 rebels have been killed in the "sporadic but fierce" clashes in the mountainous area of Saada in the north of Yemen since the beginning of 2007.</p> <p>The first of 4,000 African Union peacekeepers -- half of the AU's desired number -- arrive in the Somali capital, to replace Ethiopian troops who have been propping up</p>



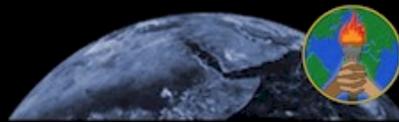
	<p>the <i>transitional government</i>. Mortars greeted Ugandan AU peacekeepers in Somalia -- "<i>the violence was the latest example of the volatility the peacekeepers face in a country that has seen little but anarchy ...</i>"</p> <p>France has sent <i>reinforcements</i> to Central African Republic, as a "precautionary measures".</p>
2007 Mar 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arab League -- which happens to have a largely <i>Sunni</i> constituency -- says Iraq must take responsibility for defusing its <i>Sunni-Shi'ite</i> conflict. After many months of bruising negotiation, President Bashir of Sudan agrees (with reservations) to a plan that would eventually see 22,000 UN peacekeepers in Sudan. The <i>al-Houthi Shi'ite</i> rebels of Yemen say they are fighting their own fight and deny accusations they are backed by Iran or Libya. As violence returns to Somalia; some have nostalgia for the brief <i>Islamist</i> rule that brought the first effective governance in 16 years. Now with <i>jamming</i> of <i>foreign radio broadcasts</i>, Zimbabwe step-by-step consolidates itself as a <i>police state</i>.
2007 Feb 26	<p>↓ Pirates have hijacked a UN-leased <i>food aid</i> ship off Somalia -- "<i>the bandits target both passenger and cargo vessels for ransom or loot, using the money to buy weapons.</i>" Documentation of some "dirty secrets" behind the Ugandan peace-keeping deployment to Somalia -- <i>Troop Deployment Not Genuine</i>.</p> <p>Sudan says large numbers of Ugandan rebels are moving towards Central African Republic, threatening more turmoil in central <i>Africa</i>.</p> <p>Dozens were killed in clashes in eastern Congo -- "<i>bands of foreign and Congolese militia still terrorize the country's east, despite the presence of the world's largest UN peacekeeping mission.</i>"</p> <p>The balkanization of the <i>Balkans</i> continues as NATO and Russia act out a <i>Cold War</i> in miniature over Kosovo -- "<i>Belgrade hopes Russia will veto the document when it reaches the U.N. Security Council</i>".</p>
2007 Feb 19	<p>↓ The US says it has learned that a militant Nigerian Delta group is reportedly planning to escalate its activities. In Guinea <i>martial law</i> is declared in response to continuing <i>strikes</i> in protest against perceived breach of a <i>power-sharing agreement</i>; over 100 have already been killed. In Zimbabwe the government has met a licensed protest march by Movement for Democratic Change with <i>teargas</i>, saying it is a <i>foreign-backed</i> challenge to its authority.</p> <p>In Somalia, Mogadishu residents are fleeing continuing <i>mortar</i> attacks -- "<i>Dozens of people have been killed in a series of attacks in Mogadishu since the Union of Islamic Courts (UIC) was ousted from the city... </i>". In another report -- "<i>I have experienced the worst insecurity now in Mogadishu since I began selling tea here eight years ago.</i>" Uganda has resolved to send <i>peacekeepers</i> to Mogadishu -- "<i>We can't deploy all over Somalia. We'll be in Mogadishu...</i>"</p> <p>In Kosovo a minister resigns to take responsibility over deaths -- "<i>UN and Kosovo police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse 3,000 ethnic Albanians ...</i>"</p>
2007 Feb 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amid sporadic mortar attacks, there are attempts at reconciliation talks in Somalia -- "<i>Many Somalis are deeply distrustful of any peacekeeping mission after a disastrous United Nations-led mission in the 1990s.</i>" In one incident senior <i>military</i> at a ceremony were killed and wounded. Both Somali neighbors, Kenya and Ethiopia, are now hosting large numbers of <i>refugees</i>. <p>Independence of Kosovo has now become – along with <i>energy</i> -- a major issue between the EU and Russia. <i>Serbs</i> have promised not to cooperate with an independent Kosovo – “Serbs in Kosovo will react as any occupied people would do.”</p> <p>With cynical opportunism, President Mugabe of Zimbabwe says <i>white farmers</i> can</p>



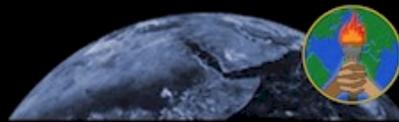
	<p>get their <i>crops</i> in before losing their land; Zimbabwe is <i>starving</i>. The <i>Ham</i>as and <i>Fatah</i> Palestinian factions seem to have reached an agreement on a unity government -- "<i>I hope this agreement will be a serious and official one and not like the previous agreements.</i>" Cote d'Ivoire is on the brink and no party is blameless -- at the end of his two year tenure, the UN Special Representative says "<i>You can say there are no angels in Cote d'Ivoire</i>". It was revealed that UK Tamils had been pressured into donating money to <i>Tiger</i> rebels [Sri Lanka]- "<i>unlike with al-Qaeda-linked terrorist groups, the police do not have the resources to act.</i>"</p>
2007 Feb 05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Congo, 100 die in clashes over several days between protesters and police in Congo, in southwestern <i>Bas Congo</i> province. The EU supports independence for <i>Kosovo</i> from Serbia; Russia opposes it -- a nasty situation still lurks in "in Europe's unfinished war". So far there is only token opposition to the transition in Somalia with several <i>rocket</i> and <i>mortar</i> attacks in <i>Mogadishu</i>. The Somali Speaker was removed for having unauthorized talks with the <i>Islamists</i> and a former <i>warlord</i> has been elected to replace him. <i>African</i> nations are hastening to find <i>peacekeepers</i> for Somalia, with little immediate success -- "... <i>failure to deploy could plunge the Horn of Africa country back into anarchy.</i>" The Somali government calls for a reconciliation conference -- "<i>the international community has to remain close to them to help them, to back them, to support them also financially.</i>" In <i>Gaza</i> another <i>Ham</i>as-<i>Fatah</i> <i>cease-fire</i> struggles to take hold, with immense pressure to succeed from neighboring <i>Arab</i> states.
2007 Jan 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Following on from an Egyptian plan, King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia will host talks between the Palestinian Fatah and <i>Ham</i>as groups. Thousands of <i>displaced</i> urgently need protection and humanitarian aid in the Central African Republic -- there are too few aid <i>professionals</i> in the conflict areas and <i>funding</i> has yet to match the needs on the ground. Five tonne of <i>ball bearings</i> have been intercepted on the way to <i>Sri Lanka</i> for use in <i>bombs</i>. There is a complex rearrangement of factions and alliances in Sri Lanka following a major <i>Tamil</i> defeat in the east -- "<i>This is a new development in Tamil politics.</i>"
2007 Jan 22	<p>↓ All seemed to be going well with Uganda peace-talks but now the rebels demand a new "unbiased" <i>mediation</i> team. Rebels have launched attacks in north-western Central African Republic, prompting concern that conflicts in adjoining Sudan and Chad could spill over.</p>
2007 Jan 15	<p>↓ About 39,000 former fighters in Liberia with nothing to do are a cause for concern -- they have yet to be placed in <i>skills</i> and <i>job</i> training programs. More than 200 people have died in clashes between <i>ethnic African farmers</i> and <i>nomadic Arabs</i> in South <i>Darfur</i> in the past week ..." Clarity and resolution in Darfur is hindered by rebel divisions -- in 2003 there were two rebels groups; in May 2006 there were three; now there are dozens. Rebels in Chad say they have opened a new <i>battlefront</i> in northeast. There are now more than 220,000 Darfur refugees and over 100,000 internally displaced Chadians. Somali President Abdullahi Yusuf entered the Somali capital for the first time since taking office in 2004; he rules out talks with the <i>Islamists</i>. The Somali parliament declares state of emergency amid fears that "Mogadishu could slide back into the kind of anarchy that gripped the city since 1991." In Nepal, although the <i>Maoist</i> insurgency may be over, hard-line breakaway factions could continue the violence."</p>



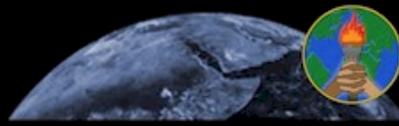
2007 Jan 08	<p>Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee says peace talks between the Tamil Tigers and Colombo are highly unlikely in the near future.</p>
2007 Jan 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Sri Lanka, a female suicide bomber killed 15 in a bus bombing. A Tamil separatist "deep penetration team" launched a claymore attack against a government vehicle killing two officials; the government responded with air strikes against rebel positions. The rebel Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) refused to restart peace talks with the Sudanese government. Rwanda mediated between the Congo government and a renegade rebel general.
2006 Dec 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ In Sri Lanka, the Tamil Tigers warn of full-scale war; Norwegian truce monitors see little hope of peace and are alarmed at the impact the military's plan to flush the Tigers out of the area will have on civilians. India, responding to a Tamil delegation, confirms it has no intention to intervene in the conflict but suggests a suitable solution can be found.
2006 Dec 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ The Chairman of the Somali Islamist regime and the Parliament Speaker meet in Yemen, continuing the back-channel talks between elements of the US-backed regime and the Union of Islamic Courts. Sources in Somalia say more government troops are defecting to the Islamic Courts side -- "Around a hundred government forces with five pickup trucks mounted with artillery and anti-aircraft guns have defected from Baidoa". Somalia's senior Islamist has urged the people to be ready to defend the country -- "Somali people should always be geared up for an imminent invasion by foreign troops due to enter the country." [Collector's note: The sense is Ethiopian troops but a subtler sense is that the US is involved in machinations against the Islamists.] Somali Islamists, consistent with governance everywhere, have started a ('jihad') tax collection -- "...a goat trader will pay \$0.07 while a cow trader will pay \$0.14 and a camel trader will pay \$1.05." Thousands of civilians are caught in crossfire in new fierce fighting in northern Sri Lanka -- "... 35,000 persons remain trapped along a sliver of land where the Government forces and the LTTE are engaged in a military campaign." Estimates suggest that at least 50,000 people have been affected in the latest phase of Sri Lanka fighting.
2006 Dec 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Palestinian police stormed the parliament precinct in protest over unpaid wages -- choking off Palestinian finances have increased the chances of civil war between factions. In the wake of the bloodless coup in Fiji – the fourth coup in twenty years -- the country has been suspended from The Commonwealth. Some of the influential traditional chiefs have told their people serving in the army to lay down their arms, leave barracks and return home. Former Mozambican president Chissano was appointed UN Envoy to Northern Uganda to broker a peace between the Ugandan government and rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA). With the outbreak of fierce fighting again, at least 12,000 people from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have entered neighboring Uganda. An informed commentator observes Ethiopian sympathies split the US-backed transitional government; leading to the Speaker's "Mogadishu Group" to link with the Islamists.
2006 Dec 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ It's official, at NBC anyway -- "armed, militarized factions fighting for their own political agendas can now be characterized as civil war." – Iraq has a civil war. Iraq and Iran say they have reached agreement on security -- "This visit was 100 percent successful. Its result will appear soon." The vital Shi'ite bloc of Muqtada al-Sadr says the Prime Minister's meeting with President Bush is "an act of provocation to the Iraqi people" and suspends participation in the Iraqi government.



	<p>Attempted assassination of senior officials and stubborn words on both sides indicate Sri Lanka is again on the brink of full-scale civil war. The Sri Lanka rebel chief says an <i>independent</i> state is now the only option. -- "We therefore ask the international community and the countries of the world that respect justice to recognize our freedom struggle." Cambodia vows to end <i>arms</i> flow to Tamil Tigers -- Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has asked Sri Lanka to trust Cambodia that no more weapons would enter Sri Lanka. Indian journalists ask "Has Pakistan's <i>Inter Services Intelligence</i> setup shop in Colombo? South India would be a deliciously close and accessible playground for the Pakistanis, wouldn't it?" In Sudan hundreds have been killed in <i>north-south</i> fighting bad even by Sudanese standards. The UN has evacuated staff after south Sudan clashes [Includes detail on this conflict over the oil-rich South, separate to the <i>Darfur</i> conflict.] Rebels are operating in the <i>Central African Republic</i> adjoining Sudan's <i>Darfur</i> and eastern Chad - three sites of chaos within gunshot of each other. UN food stockpiles in Chad have been looted -- "The loss of our main stockpiles for the eastern region and the restrictions on our staff because of continuing insecurity are jeopardizing fragile lifelines."</p> <p>The Arab League chief calls the Lebanon crisis "serious" [A <i>Sunni-Shi'ite proxy war</i> may already be underway.]</p> <p>In Cameroon , killing of two students highlights the bitter differences between <i>Francophone</i> authorities and <i>Anglophone</i> dissidents. The Angolan government hopes the peace process with the Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of [province of] Cabinda (FLEC) will continue to completion. UNICEF warns of escalating violence in northeastern Uganda -- "Of late the Ugandan military has been carrying out lethal offensives against armed warriors following several attacks by the warriors on the military and civilians." Sierra Leone is a tinderbox; it will only take one spark; Sierra Leone was supposed to be a 'nation-building' success story."</p>
2006 Nov 27	<p>✓ Full-scale violence re-erupts in the East if the Congo in the wake of disputed elections. [Shades of <i>Rwanda</i> ...] Warlord Laurent Nkunda, a former general whose militia are battling government forces, claims Congo's tenuous democracy excludes the minority <i>Tutsi</i> community.</p> <p>The rebel <i>Forces for Development and Democracy</i> (UFDD) have entered Abeche in eastern Chad. [A to and fro tussle continued for days.] Chad extends an initial 12-day <i>State of Emergency</i> for six months.</p> <p>Ethiopia's pressure on Somalia may lead to its own crisis -- ethnic Somalis from Ethiopia's <i>Ogaden</i> region are joining the <i>Islamic Courts</i>. Thousands of Ethiopian troops seem to be preparing for an engagement.</p> <p>Perhaps a 10-year civil war in Nepal that killed thousands has ended with <i>Maoist</i> rebels and the government signing a peace deal. <i>Anti-Maoist militias</i> begin destroying weapons - "This is not a big number, but symbolically it is a very important step towards peace in villages."</p> <p>With the assassination of a leading Christian politician, Lebanon may descend into a <i>pro-Syrian</i> (Muslim) and <i>anti-Syrian</i> (Christian) polarity.</p> <p>In Sri Lanka, the separatist <i>Tamils</i> kill another of their own perceived to have betrayed the cause.</p>
2006 Nov 20	<p>✓ The ambush of an Ethiopian convoy is the first reported hostilities between Somali Islamists and Ethiopian troops. A report given to the Security Council says Iran is one of seven [<i>elsewhere</i>: ten] countries breaking a UN <i>arms embargo</i> on Somalia; Iran wanted <i>uranium</i> in return.</p>
2006 Nov 13	<p>• In Congo, final election results have not yet published but conflicts the <i>election</i> should have stopped have broken out in fighting over claims of election <i>cheating</i>.</p>



	<p>In Nepal, a surprise agreement that may end a 10 year civil war that has killed more than 13,000 people would bring the <i>Maoist rebels</i> into shared government.</p> <p>In Sri Lanka at least 65 civilians are killed and over 300 injured in heavy shelling by government forces in another day of the world's most serious civil war.</p> <p>The Somalia Islamic Courts regime has signed an accord with the <i>Speaker of Parliament</i> in Mogadishu, but the <i>Interim government</i> has played no part. A report for the UN Security Council reveals eleven (11) nations have fed the Somali war build-up, a build-up "aggressive even by Somali standards", making a wide-scale <i>proxy war</i> in Somalia very likely. In central Somalia, the Islamists are battling <i>Puntland</i> troops backed by Ethiopia.</p>
2006 Nov 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Islamists</i>, who now control much of the south and central Somalia, demand Ethiopia remove its troops from Somalia. About 34,000 Somali <i>refugees</i> have arrived in Kenya since the beginning of 2006.
2006 Oct 30	<p>↓ In Bangladesh, opposition Awami League and ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) supporters fought street battles over the question of an interim Prime Minister.</p> <p>No coincidence with the fierce <i>naval</i> component to Sri Lanka's insurgency, Sri Lankan naval units conducted <i>joint operations</i> with more than 1,000 US marines from the Okinawa-based Marine Expeditionary Force.</p> <p>Somali refugees are "pouring" into Kenya as the Somali situation becomes increasingly war-like; the US says if war breaks out, 12 countries could be drawn into <i>regional conflict</i>.</p>
2006 Oct 23	<p>↓ In Sri Lanka, a suicide truck-bomb near Habarana has killed scores of naval personal in an act violent even for this civil war that has claimed 65,000 since 1983; during the week there was also a deadly <i>sea battle</i>.</p>
2006 Oct 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to report]
2006 Oct 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Iraq, the <i>Kurdish</i> regional government has raised the threat of secession [with the <i>oil</i>] from Iraq. <p>The Somali Islamists say they are open to "everything including power-sharing and bringing law and order through negotiations" on condition there is no foreign intervention."</p> <p>There are internecine killings in Palestine – "You don't know who is shooting whom. <i>Fatah, Hamas</i>, or armed bands."</p> <p>In the first advance in centuries old insurgency, <i>Muslim rebels</i> have met with (post-coup) Thai officials under brokerage of former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir.</p>
2006 Oct 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Somalia's Islamic militia have met some popular protest in <i>Kismayo</i> and have fired on a group - protestors say "They are ... <i>al-Qaida</i> and we do not want them."
2006 Sep 25	<p>↓ A "<i>Council of Administrative Reform</i>" with King Bhumibol Adulyadej as head of state seized power in Thailand without a shot fired. A "characteristically <i>al Qaeda</i>-type attempt" was made on the life of Somalia's President Yusef.</p>
2006 Sep 18	<p>↓ The African Union proposes to send 8,000 peacekeepers to Somalia to support the interim government but the <i>Islamic Courts</i> regime threatens to oppose them — "About 50 jihadist leaders have left Pakistan for Somalia ..."</p>
2006 Sep 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK media claim evidence of US-supported mercenary operations in Somalia.
2006 Sep 04	<p>↓ Leader of the Somalia Union of Islamic Islamic Courts movement, "the old fox" Colonel Sheikh Hassan Dahir Aweys, says he is prepared to negotiate peace at the meeting in Khartoum. The <i>Lord's Resistance Army</i> and the Ugandan government may be about to end 20 years of fighting. Sudan says "Any American [meaning also any UN force]who comes to Sudan will die in Darfur"—the <i>African Union, Arab League</i> and <i>OIC</i> are now the only hope to overcome a serious deadlock between the</p>



	UN Security Council and Sudan.
2006 Aug 28	• In DR Congo violence between the two rounds of presidential election seems under control but clear regional division in voting may portend future instability.
2006 Aug 21	• Peacekeepers withdrew as civil war intensified in Sri Lanka — Islamists in Somalia seized the port of Hobyo and reported defections by government troops.
2006 Aug 14	↓ Fighting in Sri Lanka became even uglier with the murder of 17 aid workers — the situation in Somalia became ominously quieter -- possibly quiet before a storm which may involve a US-backed invasion by Ethiopia .
2006 Aug 07	↓ NATO officially assumed responsibility from the US in southern Afghanistan — the 20-year civil war in Sri Lanka erupted into fierce fighting in previously unaffected areas — the US was said to be backing Ethiopia to invade Somalia and bring down the new Islamists regime.
2006 Jul 31	↓ Somalia took on the dimensions of another proxy war as Eritrea sent arms to the Islamists, and Ethiopia threatened to invade in support of the notional Somali government. A new dimension appeared also in south and west Sudan as fighting intensified between rival tribes (the <i>Zaghawa</i> and the <i>Fur</i>) among the anti-government rebels.
2006 Jul 24	↓ June was reported with the highest death-toll in Iraq since the fall of Baghdad. Alliances between largely Christian Ethiopia and the precarious Somali government further complicated the civil war in Somali and raised the chances of another civil war in Ethiopia.
2006 Jul 17	↓ Massacres by rival groups were reported in Congo, Chad and Haiti ; in comparison the continuing Islamist take-over of Somalia was diplomatic and organized.
2006 Jul 10	↓ A sudden outbreak of fighting in the long-lived insurgency in the southern Philippines has displaced up to 30,000 people; the struggle for control in Mogadishu remains violent and uncertain; the cost of other wars such as that in the Congo remain forgotten.
2006 Jul 03	↓ The Conservative Council of Islamic Courts defeated war-lords in much of Somalia – the African Union has agreed to provide a peace-keeping force. Some observers believe that civil war is possible between Hamas and anti-Hamas forces in Palestine , but the sense of Israel as a common enemy at present may defer this. Sri Lanka deteriorated to what some see as a new level of low intensity war.
Commencement of Service	

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